

## **PREFACE**

At the state level, a centralized planning process has been deemed necessary by the legislature to ensure the orderly development of the state. The Statewide Planning Program of the Rhode Island Department of Administration has the responsibility to prepare and coordinate strategic plans for the comprehensive management of the state's social, economic, and physical resources. The State Planning Council guides the Program's staff in preparing plans and in coordinating planning and development activities of governmental agencies at all levels and the private sector. The Council approves all statements of goals and policies and all elements of the State Guide Plan.

A State Guide Plan is mandated as a means for centralizing and integrating long-range goals, policies and plans with short-range project plans and implementing programs prepared on a decentralized basis by the agency or agencies responsible in each functional area. The guide plan is not a single document but a collection of elements that have been adopted since the 1960's.

The purpose of this Overview is to summarize all adopted elements of the State Guide Plan, including amendments to date. It can be used as a reference for governmental agencies and the public in determining how the State Guide Plan's relates to other plans or projects and as a guide in reviewing other plans and proposals for consistency with the State Guide Plan.

It should be noted that some of the State Guide Plan elements, while still in effect, contain outdated information. For example, dollar amounts referred to in the Overview reflect dollar values as of the date each element was prepared, unless otherwise noted. The important point is that the policies remain valid.

Four previous editions of the Overview have been published, June 1984, June 1989, and October 1992 and June 1998. Additionally, there have been nine sets of revisions (December 1984, September 1988, June 1990, June 1993, June 1995, June 1996, November 1999, June 2000, and December 2000, and December 2001) reflecting new elements adopted by the State Planning Council.

The Overview was edited John P. O'Brien, Chief, Statewide Planning Program, and updated by Kim A. Gelfuso, Information Services Technician II. Planning work and graphics are credited in the individual plan elements. The work was carried out under Task 0201 in the FY 2001 Work Program and was supported by state appropriations.